

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 62-63, 65-77, and 82 are presently active. Claims 65, 67, 69, 70, 72, 74-77, and 82 have been presently amended. Claims 1-61 and 78, 79, 80, 81, and 83 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claim 64 has been presently canceled without prejudice.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Claim 82 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kanekura et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,349). Claims 64, 70-71, and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ohtoshi et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,428). Claims 65-69 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 62-63 were indicated as being allowed.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowance for Claims 62 and 63, and acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 65-69 and 72-77. In order to expedite allowance of the present case, Claim 64 has been canceled and Claim 65 has been rewritten to be in independent form including all the features of Claim 64. Further, the allowable subject matter of Claim 65 has been added to independent Claim 82. Thus, independent Claims 65 and 82 (and the claims dependent therefrom) are in a condition for allowance.

Secondly, regarding the drawing objection, Claim 72 has been amended to recite a plurality of image forming sections distributed along the inclined belt, as shown for example in Applicants' Figure 5. Thus, the drawing objection has been overcome.

Finally, Applicants request that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 27, 2006 be considered and acknowledged. A copy of Information Disclosure Statement is

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available on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Patent Application Information Retrieval system.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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